

Allowance

1. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-13, 15 and 17-36 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Among other things, Ross et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,917,799 (hereinafter Ross) does not teach: an access module configured to process a sign-in requested by a user via at least one of the devices and a session module configured to form a plurality of voice message sessions for the user associated with the at least one device and, for each of the voice message sessions, to add the user associated with the at least one device to a discussion group. More specifically, as indicated by Applicant, the prior art of record does not teach the concept of a signed-on user functions independently from physical PCDs 11, the system 10 tracks sign-on users, which are each assigned to a voice messaging session and a signed-on user can be associated with one or more PCDs 11. See page 14 of the remarks filed on 9/3/2008, emphasis added. For this reason, claims 1, 12, 24, 25, 30 and 36 are allowed.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olisa Anwah whose telephone number is 571-272-7533. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8.30 AM to 6 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on 571-272-7547. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300 for regular communications and 571-273-8300 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2600.

Olisa Anwah
Patent Examiner
October 18, 2008

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/Olisa Anwah/

Examiner, Art Unit 2614